

affecting several counties which necessitates a state investigator in the whole-time units. Therefore, the Bureau of Epidemiology conducts most of its epidemiological work in the other forty-four counties.

This area under full-time health departments comprising 73.13 per cent of the total population of California insures more complete morbidity reporting than would otherwise be possible. These fourteen counties and ten cities during 1930 reported 88.4 per cent of the total cases of tuberculosis recorded; 79.1 per cent of the total cases of diphtheria; 81.8 per cent of the total cases of measles; and 61.2 per cent of the typhoid fever. In 1931 they reported 87.9 per cent of the cases of tuberculosis; 81.5 per cent of the diphtheria; 72.1 per cent of the measles; and 58.5 per cent of the typhoid fever. Some fluctuations of these percentages would be due to epidemic variations in different sections of the state; also with reference to the incidence of typhoid fever, the rate is higher in the rural territory.

Whooping-Cough Deserves Consideration.—There were 14,044 cases of whooping-cough reported in California during the year 1932, and during January of the present year 1,058 such cases have been reported. More cases of whooping-cough are reported generally during the spring and early summer than during other months of the year. In some years, however, the disease may prevail extensively in the late summer months. Never before in the history of California have so many cases of this disease been reported as were reported last year. The greatest number of such cases to occur during a single year before 1932 was in 1925, when 10,466 cases were reported. . . .

Syphilis as a Cause of Death.—The axiom that "Men do not die of the diseases that afflict them" might especially refer to syphilis. In the "1929 Mortality Statistics" we find just short of ten thousand deaths reported from syphilis. It is only when we sort out from the reported deaths under other classifications those really due to syphilis that we have any idea of its high rank as a cause of death. Locomotor ataxia and general paralysis of the insane are syphilis. Recent researches indicate at least 15 per cent of deaths from heart and blood-vessel conditions are caused by syphilis, probably one-fifth of those from the nervous system, one-fifth of deaths during early infancy, and a significant number from diseases of the kidneys, liver, stomach, and other vital organs. Altogether these mount upward of 100,000 and place syphilis where it belongs, among the first five great killers—syphilis, heart disease, cancer, pneumonia, and nephritis.

Typhoid Fever Still a Problem.—In spite of the fact that the typhoid fever death rate has been reduced greatly, the control of the disease in many communities of the state is still an important problem. This is true particularly along some of the inland rivers, notably in the delta region of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. In those districts, where water from irrigation ditches is used for drinking purposes, typhoid fever control is also an acute problem. In Imperial County, for example, there are 2,460 miles of irrigation canals, furnishing the major portion of the domestic water supply for the residents of the valley. Typhoid fever is a major problem in such a district and it will probably always be a problem in Imperial County. In future years, when the all-American canal is built and completed and the desilting works put in operation, there may perhaps be an increase in the numbers of cases that occur. In spite of educational work undertaken, a large percentage of the population still drinks untreated ditch water. The county health department advocates the use of filters. These can be used only where there is a high canal bank, however. Through their use, a clear water of low bacterial count is made possible. In some places, dairymen are now using filtered ditch water for their cattle. . . .

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

On March 2, 1933, Governor James Rolph, Jr., announced the following appointments to membership on the Board of Medical Examiners:

Brown, Harry V., M. D., vice Magan, Percy, M. D. (who declined appointment), for a term ending January 15, 1935.

Geistweit, William H., Jr., M. D., vice self, for a term ending January 15, 1937.

Schoff, Charles E., M. D., vice self, for a term ending January 15, 1937.

Mr. Walter Linforth, well known San Francisco attorney, was appointed chief counsel for the Board of Medical Examiners, effective March 13, 1933.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held in Los Angeles, February 27 to March 2, and continued on March 7 owing to the bank holidays, the following changes in status of licentiates was made:

Alexander, Charles B., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of three years.

Atkinson, Archibald A., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of five years, without narcotic privileges.

Bland, George H., M. D. License restored March 7, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of five years, without narcotic privileges.

Collier, Francis M., M. D. Found guilty March 7, 1933. Probation for five years, without narcotic privileges.

Cornman, Leighton R., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of five years.

Dean, Charles J., M. D. License revoked March 7, 1933.

Gardner, George M., M. D. Found guilty February 28, 1933. Probation for five years.

Hindman, Samuel J., M. D. License revoked March 1, 1933.

McLeod, William H., M. D. License revoked March 7, 1933.

Mayo, Woodward B., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for five years.

Niemann, Theodore H., M. D. License restored March 7, 1933, and placed on probation for five years, without narcotic privileges.

Pattee, Eliphalet, M. D. License revoked March 7, 1933.

Stewart, Charles M., M. D. License revoked March 1, 1933.

Zachariah, Simon R., M. D. License revoked March 1, 1933.

News Items

The records show that B. D. Johnson on February 27, 1933, pleaded guilty in the Municipal Court of Los Angeles to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was given a suspended sentence of sixty days in the county jail.

"Dr. Matthew J. Marmillian, negro physician with officers at 3315 Central Avenue, was lodged in the city jail yesterday on a charge of suspicion of murder, following the death Saturday of Margaret Scott, eighteen years of age, negress of 1529 East Twenty-ninth Street, as the result of an illegal operation" (Los Angeles Times, February 17, 1933).

"Dr. George Anthony Zorb, former police surgeon, charged with shooting his lifelong friend, Dr. Claire Wilson, was freed on \$25,000 bond yesterday, following his arraignment on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. His preliminary hearing was set for March 15. Doctor Wilson was still in a critical condition at the Georgia Street Receiving Hospital, Chief Surgeon Wallace Dodge stated (Los Angeles Examiner, March 1, 1933).

"Dr. C. A. McDowell, thirty-year-old Covina physician, yesterday was released on \$250 bail after being arrested by deputy sheriffs for failing to report treatment of a gun wound . . ." (Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News, March 9, 1933).

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.